

State Managed Shelters

Presented by VDSS

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Background

- No host shelter sites for evacuations across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Current data indicates 10% of evacuating population will have no end-point destinations.
- Commonwealth decision to develop plan for state shelter assistance.
- Virginia Dept of Social Services tasked as lead agency for state sheltering.

Identifying State Shelters

- 2006-07 online survey – responses from 96 colleges/universities and state agencies
- 2007 – created Shelter Site Assessment Teams comprised of VDSS, VDEM, VDH, DRS, and VSP. ARC and local EMs invited to participate.
 - Physical/Engineering
 - ADA
 - Security
 - Mass Care
 - Special Medical Needs Care
 - Animal Sheltering
- Site assessments categorized into 3 rounds
- April 2007 – site assessments began



Basic Parameters/Current Policy

- VDSS will manage state shelters along I-64W beginning in Williamsburg and Hwy 58 beginning in Franklin.
- No state shelters will be opened on I-64 East of Williamsburg.
- State shelters will accommodate both Medical Special Needs and general populations.
- Every effort will be made to accommodate people and pet shelters in close proximity.
- Shelters projected to be open a minimum of 7 days.
- Refuges of last resort will be opened along evacuation routes to provide immediate cover as storm passes. No comfort provisions.

Site Specific Planning

In coordination with college/university point of contact:

- VDSS coordinating overall plan development for each site and developing staffing plan for general population shelters.
- Virginia Dept of Health developing Medical Special Needs plan to address staffing and health care issues.
- Virginia State Police developing security plan.
- Virginia Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services developing pet sheltering plan.

Current/Pending Projects

- Shelter Site specific plans
- Shelter Enhancement project for generator retrofits
- Shelter IT project for rapid registration, identification and tracking
- Adjunct Emergency Workforce
- On-line shelter orientation and follow-up training

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